

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 10

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES SMITH (71) (Sponsor), WALLINGFORD, MCGHEE, PACE,
OXFORD, MEADOWS, SCHUPP AND BROWN (50) (Co-sponsors).

4544L.011

1 **WHEREAS**, sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects red blood cells.
2 People with sickle cell disease have red blood cells that contain an abnormal type of hemoglobin;
3 and

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5 **WHEREAS**, normal red blood cells contain hemoglobin A. Hemoglobin S and
6 hemoglobin C are abnormal types of hemoglobin; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, red blood cells containing mostly hemoglobin S do not live as long as
9 normal red blood cells and have difficulty passing through the body's small vessels. These
10 hemoglobin S red blood cells can block small blood vessels, resulting in tissue damage due to
11 less blood reaching that portion of the body; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, sickle cell trait is an inherited condition in which both hemoglobin A and
14 S are produced in the red blood cells, always more A than S. Sickle cell trait is not a type of
15 sickle cell disease; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, sickle cell conditions are inherited from parents in much the same way as
18 blood type, hair color and texture, eye color and other physical traits. The types of hemoglobin
19 a person makes in the red blood cells depend upon what hemoglobin genes the person inherits
20 from his or her parents; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, since sickle cell conditions are inherited from parents, it is important for
23 people to be aware if they are a carrier before having children; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, more than 72,000 people in the United States have sickle cell disease,
26 affecting mostly persons of African heritage according to the National Institute of Health.
27 Currently, there is no universal cure for sickle cell disease; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, based on the population of 5 million in the State of Missouri, 600,000 are
30 African American. 1 out of 400 suffers with sickle cell conditions and 1 out of 12 has the sickle
31 cell trait; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, with these estimated numbers, there are approximately 1,500 individuals
34 with sickle cell conditions and 50,000 individuals with sickle cell trait in the State of Missouri;
35 and

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37 **WHEREAS**, approximately 700 children, adolescents, and young adults with sickle cell
38 disease reside in the St. Louis Metropolitan area. However, less than 25% of this sickle cell
39 population will graduate from high school or seek higher education; and

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41 **WHEREAS**, health maintenance for persons with sickle cell disease starts with early
42 diagnosis, preferably when a newborn; and

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44 **WHEREAS**, treatment of complications often includes antibiotics, pain management,
45 intravenous fluids, blood transfusions, and surgery in combination with psychosocial support;
46 and

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48 **WHEREAS**, there are promising new treatments being developed which can prevent red
49 blood cells from sickling without causing harm to other parts of the body, reduce the frequency
50 of severe pain, acute chest syndrome, and the need for blood transfusions, and provide options
51 to eliminate iron overload caused by repeated blood transfusions; and

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53 **WHEREAS**, public awareness about sickle cell trait and disease and the numerous
54 programs and screening available is vital to reduce to pervasiveness of sickle cell conditions:

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56 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
57 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
58 concurring therein, hereby urge the United States Congress to address the pervasiveness of sickle
59 cell trait and disease and the need to increase public awareness of the available programs and
60 screenings; and

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